



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Contact: Michael Lampton or Matt Young

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SBA DISASTER LOANS AVAILABLE FOLLOWING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE DISASTER DESIGNATION

COLUMBIA, SC - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced today that federal disaster loans are available to small, non-farm, agriculture-dependent businesses in various counties in the states of Georgia, Alabama, Florida and South Carolina.

“SBA’s disaster declaration was issued as a result of a similar action taken by the Secretary of Agriculture to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops caused by high winds and continuing excessive rains due to Hurricane Frances and its accompanying thunderstorms and tornadoes, occurring September 4 - 7, 2004,” said SBA Disaster Area Director, Michael C. Allen.

Under this declaration, SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to small agriculture-dependent businesses and small agricultural cooperatives that suffered economic injury as a direct result of the weather’s effect on agricultural producers. For example, a business that sells goods/services to agricultural producers may be unable to pay bills and/or meet expenses because of the reduced purchasing power of the farmers and ranchers.

Eligible small businesses may qualify for loans up to \$1.5 million. These loans are available at 2.900 percent interest rate with loan terms up to 30 years. SBA determines eligibility for the program based on the size and type of business and its financial resources. Under this disaster declaration, SBA does not provide loans to agricultural producers, and cannot provide loans to non-agricultural dependent businesses.

The declaration designates the following primary and contiguous counties and adjacent states: (Contiguous counties are eligible because they are adjacent to one or more of the primary counties and SBA recognizes that disasters don’t usually stop at county or state lines).

GEORGIA PRIMARY COUNTIES:

Appling	Camden	Evans	Laurens	Pulaski	Toombs
Atkinson	Charlton	Glascok	Lee	Schley	Treutlen
Bacon	Chatham	Grady	Long	Seminole	Turner
Baker	Chattahoochee	Greene	Lowndes	Spalding	Twiggs
Ben Hill	Clinch	Hancock	Macon	Stewart	Upton
Berrien	Coffee	Harris	Marion	Sumter	Ware
Bibb	Colquitt	Henry	Miller	Talbot	Washington
Bleckley	Crawford	Houston	Mitchell	Taliaferro	Wayne
Brantley	Decatur	Jeff Davis	Monroe	Tattnall	Webster
Brooks	Dodge	Jefferson	Montgomery	Taylor	Wheeler
Bulloch	Dooly	Jenkins	Muscogee	Telfair	Wilcox
Burke	Dougherty	Johnson	Peach	Terrell	Wilkinson
Butts	Echols	Lamar	Pierce	Thomas	Worth
Calhoun	Emanuel	Lanier	Pike	Tift	

GEORGIA CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES:

Baldwin	Coweta	Glynn	McIntosh	Putnam	Troup
Bryan	Crisp	Irwin	Meriwether	Quitman	Warren
Candler	DeKalb	Jasper	Morgan	Randolph	Wilkes
Clay	Early	Jones	Newton	Richmond	
Clayton	Effingham	Liberty	Oconee	Rockdale	
Cook	Fayette	McDuffie	Oglethorpe	Screven	

CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES IN ADJACENT STATES:

ALABAMA

Barbour	Chambers	Houston	Lee	Russell
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FLORIDA

Baker	Gadsden	Jackson	Leon	Nassau
Columbia	Hamilton	Jefferson	Madison	

SOUTH CAROLINA

Aiken	Allendale	Barnwell	Jasper
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Interested business owners should contact the SBA Disaster Area 2 Office at One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308 or call 1-800-359-2227 for more information and to obtain a loan application. **Loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than May 31, 2005.**

For more information about our disaster loan programs visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster

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SBA Disaster Area 2 Office - One Baltimore Place, Suite 300 - Atlanta, GA 30308 - 1-800-359-2227